

In the Claims

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("—"), as is applicable:

1-22. Canceled.

23. (New) A method for completing jobs, comprising:

receiving a job request that includes content and data describing how the job is to be completed;

storing the content as one or more files;

creating a job ticket associated with the content using the data describing how the job is to be completed, the job ticket describing various tasks that must be completed to complete the job;

storing the job ticket;

assigning a processor to complete one or more of the tasks of the job; and

enabling the processor to access a portion of the job ticket associated with the one or more tasks and to access a portion of the stored content upon which the one or more tasks are to be performed, such that the processor can complete the tasks to which the processor has been assigned.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein receiving a job request comprises receiving a job request from a front end service associated with a client.

25. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein creating a job ticket comprises creating a job ticket that includes a job ID that associates the job ticket with the stored content.

26. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein creating a job ticket comprises creating an encrypted job ticket to which only authorized clients, including authorized processors, can access.

27. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein creating a job ticket comprises creating a job ticket that includes authorization and access data that indicate which processors can access the job ticket.

28. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein assigning a processor to complete one or more of the tasks comprises determining which processors are able and available to complete the one or more tasks.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein determining which processors are able and available comprises polling the processors.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein determining which processors are able and available comprises posting a job ticket notice that enable processors to bid on the one or more tasks.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, further comprising receiving bids to complete the one or more tasks and evaluating the bids.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein evaluating the bids comprises applying a standard set of criteria or applying an evaluation algorithm.

33. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein enabling a processor comprises confirming that the processor is authorized to access the portion of the job ticket and the portion of the stored content.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein confirming that the processor is authorized comprises applying a public key encryption system.

35. (New) The method of claim 23, comprising assigning multiple different processors to complete different tasks of the job.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, further comprising enabling different processors to access portions of the job ticket and portions of the stored content associated with tasks to which they have been assigned.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the different processors are provided access to separate branches of the job ticket associated with different tasks to be performed.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the different processors may access the separate branches simultaneously such that the job can be completed in parallel.

39. (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising locking branches of the job ticket such that only certain processors can access certain branches of the job ticket.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein locking branches comprises setting a lock or unlock flag for job ticket branches.

41. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein locking branches is performed when more than one processor is authorized to access the same branch so as to prevent concurrent access of that same branch.

42. (New) The method of claim 35, further comprising controlling the order in which the different tasks of the job are completed and by which processor.

43. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the job is a print job, the content is content to be printed, and the processor is a provider that performs printing services.

44. (New) A service center that receives job requests from clients, the service center comprising:

a job store that stores content of jobs that are to be completed and provides access to the content;

a job ticket service that stores job tickets that describe how the jobs are to be completed and provides access to the job tickets, the job tickets comprising one or

more branches that are associated with one or more tasks that must be completed to complete the jobs, the job tickets being associated with the stored content; and

a workflow controller that creates job tickets and assigns processors to complete the one or more tasks of the jobs based upon the processors' ability and availability to complete the one or more tasks;

wherein more than one assigned processor may complete a task of a given job such that multiple processors can be used to complete the same job.

45. (New) The service center of claim 44, wherein the job ticket service provides processors with access to the job tickets by providing access to branches of the job tickets that pertain to different tasks of the jobs.

46. (New) The service center of claim 45, wherein the job ticket service is capable of locking branches so that only authorized processors may access those branches.

47. (New) The service center of claim 44, wherein the work flow controller creates job tickets that include authorization and access data that indicate which processors can access the job ticket.

48. (New) The service center of claim 44, wherein the work flow controller determines which processors are able and available to complete the one or more of the tasks.

49. (New) The service center of claim 48, wherein the work flow controller determines which processors are able and available by polling the processors.

50. (New) The service center of claim 48, wherein the work flow controller determines which processors are able and available by posting job ticket notices that enable processors to bid on the one or more tasks.

51. (New) The service center of claim 50, further comprising a bidding service that receives and evaluates bids to complete the one or more tasks.

52. (New) The service center of claim 44, further comprising a authentication server that receives authentication information from processors and confirms that processors are authorized to access requested job tickets.

53. (New) The service center of claim 52, wherein the authentication server applies a public key encryption system to confirm processor authorization.

54. (New) The service center of claim 44, wherein the work flow controller is configured to assign different processors to complete different tasks of a job.

55. (New) The service center of claim 54, wherein the work flow controller is configured to control the order in which the different tasks of the job are completed and by which processor.

56. (New) The service center of claim 44, wherein the job is a print job, the content is content to be printed, and the processor is a provider that provides printing services.